

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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S/S - R. PERITO

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230347 TOSEC 270265

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FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AHERNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MISCELLANY

1. THE LETTER TO "AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY" WAS DELIVERED THIS AFTERNOON--JUST BEFORE, AS IT TURNS OUT THE DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE. I UNDERSTAND INCIDENTALLY THAT THE MAGAZINE INTENDS TO PRINT SOME OR ALL OF THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT, AND TO REBUT IT, SAYING THEY STAND BY THEIR SOURCES AND THEIR STORY. YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS, BUT I WONDER IF YOU WANT TO CONSIDER ALSO ENERGIZING BUSH TO MAKE SOME SORT OF STATEMENT SAYING THAT HE, AS THE PURPORTED OBJECT OF PRESSURE, NEVER RECEIVED ANY.

2. MCCLOSKEY HAD COINCIDENTALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO HAVE LUNCH WITH GELB TODAY, AND DID SO. GELB'S ORIGINAL STORY AS SENT TO NEW YORK HAD A PARAGRAPH, WHICH THE EDITORS ELIMINATED, SAYING THAT OVER 2,000 COPIES OF THESE
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MEMORANDA HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS OF

THE FIVE TOWN MEETINGS. WE HAD LAST NIGHT TOLD GELB ABOUT THAT DISTRIBUTION, ABOUT THE WIDE LOCAL COVERAGE OF THE TOWN MEETINGS, AND ABOUT THE EARLIER BINDER STORY IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW HIM THAT THERE WAS LITTLE "NEWS" HERE. GELB GRUDGINGLY CONCEDED TO MCCLOSKEY THAT THE STORY DID NOT PRESENT A BALANCED VIEW OF THE MEMORANDA AND THAT THEY DID NOT, IN FACT, REPRESENT AN "INDICTMENT". THE ONLY REACTION AT THIS WRITING TO OUR STATEMENT ON THE GELB STORY HAS BEEN FROM AP, WHOSE MAN HERE LOOKED AT THE MEMORANDA AND COMMENTED THAT GELB WAS OFF BASE, AND THAT THE TOWN MEETINGS SOUNDED LIKE A VERY GOOD OPERATION. WE WILL, OF COURSE, IMMEDIATELY SEND YOU WHATEVER COMES OUT ON THIS.

3. HAVE CONFIRMED THE EDITORIAL WRITERS CONVENTION, DINNER PLUS PANEL Q&A, FOR OCTOBER 2 AT HILTON HEAD.

4. THE LETTER TO JEAN MAYER HAS BEEN DISPATCHED.

5. SECRETARY RECEIVED IN THE MAIL TODAY A NEAT LITTLE BOOK OF POLICY AND ISSUES PAPERS PUT OUT BY THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR USE BY CANDIDATES AROUND THE COUNTRY. THIS LITTLE BOOK--WHICH I AM HAPPY TO SAY IS BOUND IN BLUE RATHER THAN RED--CONTAINS ABOUT TWO DOZEN STATEMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. I COULD NOT FIND ANY PROBLEM IN THESE PAPERS, AND INDEED SOME OF THE LANGUAGE LOOKS HAUNTINGLY FAMILIAR--MUCH LIKE SOME OF THE PAPERS PREPARED HERE WITH WHICH YOU ARE FAMILIAR. THE ONLY SIN OF OMISSION I COULD FIND WAS IN THE PANAMA CANAL PAPER, WHICH NEGLECTED TO POINT OUT THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS GO BACK TO 1964 AND ARE NOT A RECENT INVENTION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, BRIEFING MATERIALS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE230347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWAHERNE:BDF
Enclosure: TOSEC 270265
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840096-1845
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760947/aaaabolf.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISCELLANY
TAGS: OVIP, OGEN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USDEL SECRETARY SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006